

South Boston Dorchester Avenue Improvement Study
Task Force Meeting
Meeting Summary
Thursday, June 15, 2006

Location: Boston City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Conference Room 937

Attendees: Brad Washburn, BRA
Ines Soto, BRA
Karen Hong, BRA
Amanda Simon, ONS
Linda Zablocki
Denise Lynch
Beth Bernier
Pattie McCormick
Tamara Holloway
Darek Barcikowski

The meeting of the South Boston Dorchester Avenue Improvement Study's Task Force was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the BRA Conference Room 937 of Boston City Hall, by Brad Washburn, Planner with the BRA.

Brad Washburn began the meeting by greeting the Task Force and thanking them for attending. After a round of introductions, Brad announced that the Louis Berger Group had been chosen to be the design consultants for this project, with Keri Pyke as the project manager. He briefly explained the history of the project, the Dorchester Avenue portion that Ines Soto, Senior Planner at the BRA, was heading, and the South Boston portion that he was heading. He said that the two Task Forces for these two portions would be meeting in July 2006 to discuss the consultant scope of work.

Ines Soto then gave a project update for the Dorchester Avenue Project. Ines mentioned that there were a total of 15 members on the Task Force for the Dorchester portion, including 2 youth members. To date, they have held 3 community charrettes, 3 business charrettes, and 3 signage workshops. Ines went on to explain that the role of the Task Forces was to make recommendations to the BRA and the inter-agency team.

Brad Washburn then distributed the Dorchester Avenue Project Mission Statement as an example for the Task Force to review. Brad asked the Task Force members to review the statement as they would be creating one of their own at the next meeting. Brad stated that the goal of the South Boston/Dorchester Avenue Task Force is to determine how much funding was needed for the streetscape and transportation improvements for the study area. After determining the amount of money that was needed, the BRA would go to the Mayor next spring (approximately 9 months from now) to request this necessary funding.

Brad also mentioned that a new website was being considered for the South Boston planning initiative.

Brad went on to state the expectations and timeline for the Task Force. He stated that regular attendance was requested at the monthly meetings, and if members could not attend, they should notify him ahead of time. If a member could not attend the meetings on a regular basis, the BRA would reconsider replacing that person with another member to facilitate the process. The tentative date and venue for the next monthly meeting would be mid-month July, at approximately 6:00 pm, at the Marine Industrial Park located at 88 Black Falcon Ave, Suite 237.

Brad explained that all the Task Force meetings are open to the public, however, only the Task Force members can make project-related decisions. The public is, however, allowed to ask questions at the end of each meeting. Brad also mentioned that a note-taker is needed for every meeting.

Darek Barcikowski then brought up the issue of the junkyard situated behind the Andrew Square MBTA station, which is owned by the Mayo Group. The Task Force members acknowledged that the redevelopment of this parcel is an essential component for improving Andrew Square. Brad indicated that the community wants retail on the front of the site in order to enliven the streetscape. Brad also mentioned that the site is currently undergoing environmental remediation and is being cleaned up to commercial level to facilitate such development.

Brad said that the BRA would post the meeting summary on the BRA Planning Initiative website, and that he'd be in contact shortly with any updates.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7.30pm.